

## Advisory Council for Parent Involvement and Family Engagement

NRS 385.620

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

The reconstituted Council, as of January 2015, has been effective in carrying out its duties as prescribed in NRS 385.620. The Council met eight times in FY2016 and was able to accomplish the following: revise the ten year old Nevada Parent Involvement and Family Engagement Policy, research national best practices on family engagement and determine the feasibility of incorporating strategies statewide, and build a knowledge base around the capacity of school districts to engage parents and families. The Council reviewed district policies, built relationships, and allowed school districts to present their best practices. The Council is dedicated to creating dialogue at the State level among school districts in Nevada. It is the Council's expectation that Nevada will become a national leader in family engagement initiatives and results.

1. Review the policy of parental involvement adopted by the State Board and the policy of parental involvement and family engagement adopted by the board of trustees of each school district pursuant to NRS 392.457.

Council Members reviewed the existing State Board Parental Involvement Policy in March of 2015. In July of 2015, Council Members reviewed school districts' Parental Involvement Policies and made recommendations (See Appendix A). In September of 2015, Chair Corrales updated information on the district policies that were missing information (See Appendix B).

Additionally, Members held a State policy work session and voted to present a draft to the State Board of Education for adoption (See Appendix C). The Nevada Board of Education approved the Council's draft on September 3, 2015.

In order to fulfill this responsibility, the Council has set to review the Nevada Policy of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement every other legislative year. School district policies will be reviewed every two to three years or six months after new policies are published.

2. Review the information relating to communication with and participation, involvement and engagement of parents and families that is included in the annual report of accountability for each school district pursuant to paragraph (l) of subsection 2 of NRS 385.347 and similar information in the annual report of accountability prepared by the State Public Charter School Authority and a college or university within the Nevada System of Higher Education that sponsors a charter school pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 385.347; Now 385.3495

The Council has heard presentations from numerous school districts, many of which have shared communication and outreach methods and parent participation in decision making and involvement in the education of their children.

The Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement produced a report for the Council's review that summarized districts' communication and methods and schools parent participation percentages in parent conferences.

The Council will review language in NRS 385.3495 to align it with the Nevada Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Policy. Additionally, the Council will request school district's accountability reports to review parent involvement efforts.

3. Review any effective practices carried out in individual school districts to increase parental involvement and family engagement and determine the feasibility of carrying out those practices on a statewide basis;

The Council has requested a presentation from all school districts to review district wide family engagement efforts as well as individual school efforts. Community organizations that support schools and districts have also presented before the Council. The following presentations have allowed for the Council to gain a sense of best practices in Nevada:

- April 2015 – Lyon County School District, Northwest RPDP
- May 2015 – Clark County School District (FACES)
- November 2015 – Washoe County School District (Family – School Partnership Office)
- February 2016 – ZOOM Family Engagement Implementation in Clark and Washoe County Schools
- May 2016 – City of Las Vegas My Brother's Keeper & Downtown Achieves, Mariposa Academy
- June 2016 – Public Education Foundation's Toyota Family Literacy Program, Nevada PEP

The Office will coordinate with school district liaisons that have not presented before the Council in order to hear from all 17 school districts.

4. Review any effective practices carried out in other states to increase parental involvement and family engagement and determine the feasibility of carrying out those practices in this State;

In February 2015, Council members learned about the PTA's Six National Standards, which were later incorporated into the Nevada Policy of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement. In April 2015, Members were given a presentation on Teacher Champions and USC Price School of Public Policy provided the Council with the National Landscape of Family Engagement in Nevada (See Appendix D). In May, Council Members learned about the US Department of Education's *A Dual Capacity Framework for Family-School Partnerships*. Council Member Hoy joined Office staff Rose Avila on a trip to the 2015 Family and Community Engagement Conference. Both shared their findings in July 2015.

At every Council meeting, the Office shares updates from national webinars, State Education Authority family engagement phone calls, and conferences to inform members about effective practices taking place across the country. The Council will prioritize its spending to ensure multiple Council members are able to attend national family engagement conferences in the future.

5. Identify methods to communicate effectively and provide outreach to parents, legal guardians and families of pupils who have limited time to become involved in the education of their children for various reasons, including, without limitation, work schedules, single-parent homes and other family obligations;

The Council learns about district and school outreach methods from presentations and mandated annual district reports. Members continue to advocate for varied methods of communication and outreach to ensure communication is two-way and authentic. Council members provide a conduit for information from the Council and Office to their various constituencies.

In FY2017, the Council will create various ways of communicating national and local best practices with school districts to ensure information is being received and utilized. The Council will make an effort to be a resource for

school districts.

6. Identify the manner in which the level of parental involvement and family engagement affects the performance, attendance and discipline of pupils;

Currently, there is no statewide measurement for family engagement. Districts are tracking participation but have not identified the manner in which it affects performance, attendance, and discipline of pupils as there is no tool available to do so.

In July 2015, the Nevada PTA shared data suggesting a correlation between PTA membership and school performance, as measured by the Nevada School Performance Framework.

Washoe County School District contracts outside evaluators to determine the effectiveness of their programs and is in the beginning stages of correlating parental involvement to academic achievement, discipline, and attendance.

As the Council learns more about effective measurement tools for schools and districts, they will make the necessary recommendations to ensure data is being collected to support family engagement. Additionally, the Council has identified various partners and has initiated a collaborative effort in obtaining data.

7. Identify methods to communicate effectively with and provide outreach to parents, legal guardians and families of pupils who are limited English proficient;

The Council learns about district and school outreach methods from presentations and mandated reports. Members continue to advocate for varied methods of communication and outreach to ensure communication is two-way and authentic.

In FY2017, the Council will create various ways of communicating national and local best practices with school districts to ensure information is being received and utilized. The Council will make an effort to be a resource for school districts.

8. Determine the necessity for the appointment of a statewide parental involvement and family engagement coordinator or a parental involvement and family engagement coordinator in each school district, or both;

The Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement was created in 2011 and has worked closely with the Council since its inception. The Council will review the Office's annual report every August to determine the necessity for the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement. The Council will also determine the necessity for a school district coordinator in upcoming meetings. The Council's work would not be possible without the support of the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement.

9. Work in collaboration with the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement created by NRS 385.630 to carry out the duties prescribed in NRS 385.635;

The Council and Office work closely to:

- prepare Council agendas and materials
- ensure Council is informed of state and national family engagement best practices
- enlist presenters to hear more about state and national family engagement practices
- communicate family engagement best practices to district liaisons and school staff

10. On or before July 1 of each year, submit a report to the Legislative Committee on Education describing the activities of the Advisory Council and any recommendations for legislation;
Pending Submission
11. On or before February 1 of each odd-numbered year, submit a report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmission to the next regular session of the Legislature describing the activities of the Advisory Council and any recommendations for legislation.
N/A

### Goals for FY17

The Council will continue to reach out to school districts, schools, programs, and charters to learn about the effective ways in which they engage Nevada's families. As the Council continues to build its knowledge base and resource references, they will find ways of communicating effectively with schools and school districts to determine the feasibility of implementing family engagement practices.

The Council will also focus on family engagement professional development as all members have indicated this as being a high need area.

### Conclusions

In partnership with the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement, the Council has developed structures to ensure it continues to meet its duties set forth in NRS 385.620. In April 2016, the Council approved a final draft of their Work Plan (Appendix E), which identifies partners, steps, and captures deadlines for completing its statutory duties. FY2016 was a year of building momentum and a foundation of knowledge. The Council expects to build on this foundation for the FY2017 by creating two-way communication between schools and districts to share family engagement best practice.

The following outlines recommendations from the Advisory Council for Parent Involvement and Family Engagement for possible statutory changes in order to maximize their impact. This is a preliminary list and future meetings may determine other statutory changes the Council deems necessary to carry out its objectives and duties.

**Proposed Change 1:** Required Reporting to the Legislative Committee on Education and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau

To maximize efficiency and eliminate possible reporting duplication, the Council would like to make the following changes to NRS 385.620 (10) and NRS 385.620 (11):

10. ~~On or before July 1 of each year, submit a report to the Legislative Committee on Education describing the activities of the Advisory Council and any recommendations for legislation; and~~

11. On or before February 1 of each ~~odd-numbered~~ year, submit a report [to the Legislative Committee on Education and](#) to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmission to the next regular session of the Legislature describing the activities of the Advisory Council and any recommendations for legislation.

**Proposed Change 2:** Advisory Council Name Change

The term Family Engagement is inclusive to all members of the family including parents, which is why the Council would like to make the following changes to its name:

Advisory Council for ~~Parent Involvement and~~ Family Engagement

**Proposed Change 3:** Updating NRS 385.620 Language

The term “parental involvement and family engagement” is the current language found in NRS 385.620. If the Council’s name changes to Advisory Council for Family Engagement, the Council requests the following changes to NRS 385.620:

Replacing the term “parent involvement and family engagement” with “family engagement” wherever mentioned.

**Proposed Change 4:** Changing the Composition of the Council

To offer a more diverse point of view and address issues of Quorum, the Council will like to make the following changes to NRS 385.610 (3) and NRS 385.610 (4):

3. The Speaker of the Assembly shall appoint one member of the Assembly to the Advisory Council [as a non-voting member who will attend a minimum of two meetings a year. The Speaker of the Assembly or the appointed non-voting member of the Assembly shall appoint one member, who is not a legislator, to a voting seat on the Advisory Council.](#)

4. The Majority Leader of the Senate shall appoint one member of the Senate to the Advisory Council [as a non-voting member who will attend a minimum of two meetings a year. The Majority Leader of the Senate or the appointed non-voting member of the Senate shall appoint one member, who is not a legislator, to a voting seat on the Advisory Council.](#)

**Other Possible Topics**

Reporting and Accountability